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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,007	09/23/2003	Masaaki Ogura	243084US2	1929
22850	7590	11/30/2007		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER KHATRI, ANIL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2191	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/30/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
oblonpat@oblon.com
jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/668,007

Applicant(s)

OGURA, MASAOKI

Examiner

Anil Khatri

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-77 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-77 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nakagawa et al* USPN 5,835,911 in view of *Sakanishi* USPN 6,678,888.

Regarding claims 1 and 20

Nakagawa et al teaches,

a first storage part that stores first software configured to update second software of stored by each of the electronic apparatuses (column 28, lines 55-67, FIG. 3 shows the configuration of the system according to the first embodiment. In FIG. 3, computers 21-1 and 21-2 respectively belong to users A and B. Each of the computers 21-1 and 21-2 is equipped with a client program CP for automatically updating the software in the user computer and sending fault information. The computer of user A stores software Si of an old configuration, and the computer of user B stores the same software Si of the latest version. The software is managed by the client program CP. As described above, software is identified as Si.V.1 in the full

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notation, but in the first embodiment, the software of a certain type can simply be represented as Si.1);and

a non-volatile storage part storing the second software controlling an operation of the electronic apparatus (column 6, lines 17-32, a feature of the present invention resides in a software distribution/maintenance system having a plurality of user computers and a vendor computer connected to the plurality of user computers through a network to manage and automatically update over the network a set of object software sent and stored in the user computers from the vendor computer through the network, comprising: first process means in the user computers; second process means in the vendor computer; and object software library in the vendor computer, wherein said first process means sends current configuration information of the object software stored in the user computers to said second process means of the vendor computer through the network to inquire the latest configuration, receives an answer from said second process means, and updates the object software stored in the user computers according to an instruction in a received answer); and

a software updating part that updates the second software stored in the non-volatile storage part based on the first software when receiving the first software from the intermediary apparatus software transmitting part (column 6, lines 34-57, said second process means receives an inquiry from said first process means in the user computers, generates update instruction information for the object software to match a configuration of the object software in the user

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computers with the configuration of an updated version in said object software library stored in the vendor computer, and returns through the network to the first process means the update instruction information and the software of the updated version. Another feature of the present invention resides in a software distribution/maintenance system having a plurality of user computers and a vendor computer to manage and automatically update object software provided for the plurality of user computers from the vendor computer thorough a network, comprising: first process means in each of the user computers; and network means for connecting the user computers to the vendor computers; wherein said first process means sends current configuration information of the object software stored in the user computers to the vendor computer through the network to inquire the latest configuration, receives an answer from the vendor computer, and updates the object software stored in the user computers according to an instruction in a received answer.

a remote managing apparatus software transmitting part that transmits the first software retrieved from the first storage part to the intermediary apparatus via the communication line (column 5, lines 60-64, The ninth object of the present invention is to provide a software distribution/maintenance system and method over a network which allows flexible message communication between users and vendors by introducing procedure definition of methods of processing the messages). *Nakagawa et al* does not teach explicitly the intermediary apparatus comprises: a second storage part; a software writing part that writes the first software to the second storage part when acquiring the first software from the remote managing apparatus software transmitting part; and a an intermediary apparatus software transmitting part

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that transmits the first software stored in the second storage part to at least one of the electronic apparatuses when the at least one of the electronic apparatuses requires the second software stored therein to be updated. However, *Sakanishi* teaches (column 6, lines 53-67, In addition, one of the control systems 06 including a control system serving a distribution intermediate and a controlled system 08 are provided with a distributed-software-recipient-information memory means 04 for storing information on already installed software, an affected-software-management-information memory means 05 for storing information on software affected by updating of installed software for each piece of already installed software and distributed-software-determining means 09 and 14 each used for determining software to be distributed in accordance with a distribution command from these pieces of information. It should be noted that the distributed-software-recipient-information memory means 04 provided in a controlled system 08 is referred to as an already-installed-software-information memory means 04).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate intermediate apparatus or source in software update. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine teaching into software distribution and updating by having intermediate apparatus in between to control the number of activities in software updating remotely so the processing goes efficiently and results re achieved without errors.

Regarding claims 2 and 21

Sakanishi teaches,

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when two or more of the electronic apparatuses require the second software thereof to be updated, the software transmitting part of the intermediary apparatus transmits the first software stored in the second storage part to each of the two or more of the electronic apparatuses (see figures 2, 13-17, column 10, lines 63-67 and column 11, lines 1-9, The uppermost-level control system creates a software-identifying ID, a version and information on a controlled system in a simple combination and generates a command making a request for software distribution.

Receiving the command making a request for software distribution from the uppermost-level control system, the intermediate control system checks whether or not the desired software file exists in a management data base. If the desired software file does not exist in a management data base, the file is downloaded from the upper-level system. Then, management information is retrieved from a management data base to determine software to be distributed. A command making a command making a request for software distribution is created and transmitted to a lower-level system along with the software to be distributed).

Regarding claims 3 and 22

Sakanishi teaches,

the first software stored in the first storage part of the remote managing apparatus comprises software programs of different types; and the second software differs in type between two or more of the electronic apparatuses; and (column 6, lines 58-67 and column 7, lines 1-25, A further feature of the present invention resides in a software distribution and maintenance system using a network in which a number of users U1, U2, . . . using a number of types of object software to be distributed, managed, and maintained, and a number of software vendors V1 , V2,

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. . . supplying the object software manage the distribution and maintenance of the object software over a computer network, comprising: one or more first process means CPs installed in each of user computers, that manage object software groups S1, S2, . . . to be used by one of more users U1, U2, . . . individually for every object software and for every user; one or more second process means SPs installed in either of software vendor computers, that gives services to vendor software libraries SL (S1), SL (S2), . . . for each of the software libraries; a network that connects the first process means CP installed in the user computer to the second process means SP, based on standardized communications protocols; and wherein said first process means CP has a capability that perform distribution and/or maintenance of the object software by sending a message that requests to distribute and/or maintain the object software for one piece of object software over the network, according to instructions given by the users U1, U2, . . . or a user-defined program, receiving an answer message from the second process means SP, and processing it depending on contents of the answer message and settings made by the users U1, U2, . . . ; and said second process means SP has a capability to receive the message from an arbitrary first process means CP, to reference the software libraries SL(S1), SL(S2), . . . managed by the vendors V1, V2, . . . depending on the contents of a received message and settings made by the vendors V1, V2, . . . for the object software specified with the message, to generate an answer message to answer the request of distribution and/or maintenance of the object software, and to send the answer message to said first process means CP of the sender of the corresponding message. *Nakagawa et al.* does not teach explicitly the intermediary apparatus software transmitting part transmits two or more of the software programs of the first software to the two or more of the electronic apparatuses in accordance with the types of the

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second software thereof. However, *Sakanishi teaches*, (column 6, lines 53-67, In addition, one of the control systems 06 including a control system serving a distribution intermediate and a controlled system 08 are provided with a distributed-software-recipient-information memory means 04 for storing information on already installed software, an affected-software-management-information memory means 05 for storing information on software affected by updating of installed software for each piece of already installed software and distributed-software-determining means 09 and 14 each used for determining software to be distributed in accordance with a distribution command from these pieces of information. It should be noted that the distributed-software-recipient-information memory means 04 provided in a controlled system 08 is referred to as an already-installed-software-information memory means 04).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate intermediate apparatus or source in software update. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine teaching into software distribution and updating by having intermediate apparatus in between to control the number of activities in software updating remotely so the processing goes efficiently and results re achieved without errors.

Regarding claims 4, 5 and 23

Nakagawa et al teaches,

a schedule generating part that generates an update date and time for updating the second software (column 12, lines 20-35, When the first process unit 1b is activated at a predetermined time, the first process unit 1b sends the current configuration information of the object

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is software 1a to the second process unit 3a to inquire the latest configuration, receives an answer from the second process unit 3a, updates the object software 1a according to the update instruction information in the answer, and prepares for the compiling and linking of programs if necessary. Thus, the object software 1a can be automatically updated. Therefore, the object software 1a can be automatically updated at night, for example, with the user released of being kept waiting in updating the object software 1a during the operation of the software.

Furthermore, by the activation of the first process unit 1b at times predetermined by user's software, the object software 1a can be automatically updated periodically every dawn, every week, or every month without user's explicit operations; and

a schedule transmitting part that transmits the generated update date and time to the intermediary apparatus (column 12, lines 20-35, When the first process unit 1b is activated at a predetermined time, the first process unit 1b sends the current configuration information of the object is software 1a to the second process unit 3a to inquire the latest configuration, receives an answer from the second process unit 3a, updates the object software 1a according to the update instruction information in the answer, and prepares for the compiling and linking of programs if necessary. Thus, the object software 1a can be automatically updated. Therefore, the object software 1a can be automatically updated at night, for example, with the user released of being kept waiting in updating the object software 1a during the operation of the software.

Furthermore, by the activation of the first process unit 1b at times predetermined by user's software, the object software 1a can be automatically updated periodically every dawn, every week, or every month without user's explicit operations);

the remote managing apparatus software transmitting part of apparatus transmits the first software stored in the first storage part to the intermediary apparatus at a request thereof (column 30, lines 36-41, If the software has not been updated, then the update instruction information informs of no need of update. If the information tells no need of update or deletion of modules only, then no updated software is transmitted. If the software should be updated, then updated software is received, but received is only the modules to be updated into); and

a schedule writing part that writes the update date and time to the second storage part when receiving the update date and from the remote managing apparatus (column 30, lines 47-54, In step S6, necessary processes are performed according to the update information. That is, if update instruction information indicates the update of modules, then specified modules are deleted from the object software and updated modules are added to the original modules. If the update instruction information tells no need of update, then no actions are taken); and

a transmission requesting part that requests the remote managing apparatus to transmit the first software to the intermediary apparatus when the update date and time stored in the second storage part is reached (column 30, lines 36-41, If the software has not been updated, then the update instruction information informs of no need of update. If the information tells no need of update or deletion of modules only, then no updated software is transmitted. If the software should be updated, then updated software is received, but received is only the modules to be updated into).

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Regarding claim 8

Sakanishi teaches,

a status checking part that checks a status of the at least one of the electronic apparatuses (column 13, lines 42-47, at the next step S132, a return value received from the function is examined. If the return value is found negative, that is, if the result of the examination at the step S132 is NO, the processing is continued by not taking the premise software of the software being checked as an object of distribution so that the premise software does not affect the existing environment); and

an update date and time changing part that changes the update date and time stored in the second storage part so that a start of the updating of the second soft-ware is deferred for a predetermined period of time when it is determined based on a result of the checking by the status checking part that the at least one of the electronic apparatuses is prevented from starting the updating of the second software immediately (column 3, lines 16-24, Furthermore, in order to prevent already installed software from becoming unusable, there is provided a management means for controlling already installed software and software affected by updating of the already installed software by associating the former with the latter. If software serving as an object of distribution updates the already installed software, other already installed software affected by the updating is checked to make sure that the condition for using software being used remains satisfied).

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Regarding claims 36, 41, 46 and 62

Nakagawa et al teaches,

writing an update date and time to a an intermediary apparatus storage part of in the intermediary apparatus when the update date and time is received from the remote managing apparatus (apparatus (column 30, lines 47-54, In step S6, necessary processes are performed according to the update information. That is, if update instruction information indicates the update of modules, then specified modules are deleted from the object software and updated modules are added to the original modules. If the update instruction information tells no need of update, then no actions are taken);

requesting the remote managing apparatus to transmit software to the intermediary apparatus when the update date and time in the storage part is reached (column 12, lines 20-35, When the first process unit 1b is activated at a predetermined time, the first process unit 1b sends the current configuration information of the object is software 1a to the second process unit 3a to inquire the latest configuration, receives an answer from the second process unit 3a, updates the object software 1a according to the update instruction information in the answer, and prepares for the compiling and linking of programs if necessary. Thus, the object software 1a can be automatically updated. Therefore, the object software 1a can be automatically updated at night, for example, with the user released of being kept waiting in updating the object software 1a during the operation of the software. Furthermore, by the activation of the first

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process unit 1b at times predetermined by user's software, the object software 1a can be automatically updated periodically every dawn, every week, or every month without user's explicit operations); and

writing the software to the intermediary apparatus storage part when the software transmitted in response to said step (b) from the remote managing apparatus is acquired, transmitting the software in the intermediary apparatus storage part to at least one of the electronic apparatuses when the at least one of the electronic apparatuses requires software stored therein to be updated, and causing the at least one of the electronic apparatuses to update the software thereof stored therein (column 30, lines 36-41, If the software has not been updated, then the update instruction information informs of no need of update. If the information tells no need of update or deletion of modules only, then no updated software is transmitted. If the software should be updated, then updated software is received, but received is only the modules to be updated into).

Regarding claims 14, 25, 27, 30, 33, 42, 44, 51, 56, 67 and 72

Rejection of claims 1, 20, 36, 41, 46 and 62 is incorporated and further claims 14, 25, 27, 30, 33, 42, 44, 51, 56, 67 and 72 recites limitations as in claim 8, therefore claims 14, 25, 27, 30, 33, 42, 44, 51, 56, 67 and 72 are rejected under same rationale.

Regarding claims 6, 7, 9-13 and 15-19

Rejection of claim 1 is incorporated and further claims 6, 7, 9-13 and 15-19 recites limitations as in claim 5, therefore claims 6, 7, 9-13 and 15-19 are rejected under same rationale.

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Regarding claims 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34 and 35

Rejection of claim 20 is incorporated and further claims 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34 and 35 recites limitations from claims 1-5 and 22-23 therefore, claims 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34 and 35 are rejected under same rationale.

Regarding claims 37-40

Rejection of claim 36 is incorporated and further claims 37-40 recites limitations from claims 1 and 20 therefore, claims 37-40 are rejected under same rationale.

Regarding claims 43 and 45

Rejection of claim 41 is incorporated and further claims 43 and 45 recites limitations as in claims 1, 20 and 36, therefore, claims 43 and 45 are rejected under same rationale.

Regarding claims 47-50, 52-55 and 57-61

Rejection of claim 46 is incorporated and further claims 47-50, 52-55 and 57-61 recites limitations as in claims 1, 20, 36 and 41, therefore, claims 47-50, 52-55 and 57-61 are rejected under same rationale.

Regarding claims 63-66, 68-71 and 73-77

Rejection of claim 62 is incorporated and further claims 63-66, 68-71 and 73-77 recites limitations as in claims 1, 20, 36 and 41, therefore, claims 63-66, 68-71 and 73-77 are rejected under same rationale.



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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anil Khatri whose telephone number is 571-272-3725. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen can be reached on 571-272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


ANIL KHATRI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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